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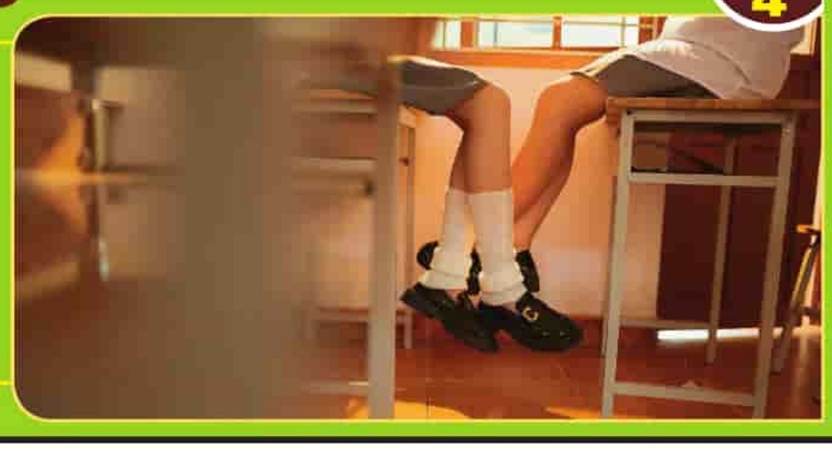
Bangalore Mirror ON SUNDAY

TEMP Max 30 | Min 20 | Humidity 65% Generally cloudy sky with Light rain Sensex 84,058 | Nifty 25,637 | Gold 97,420 | Silver 1,07,800 | Dollar 85.47 | Euro 100.55 | GBP 117.55

Ready for school

CITY PAGE 4

Child rights activists ask govt to sanction funds sooner from next year to ensure students get shoes, socks in June



Way of life

CITY PAGE 7

For Gen Z in Bengaluru, anime is not just a way to pass time, it is their friend, philosopher and guide

Recent report by Central Pollution Control Board states K'taka has 22 contaminated sites, but far from acting on remediation, state is not yet to ready to accept last year's figures — of 5 such sites in city, it found only 1 to be contaminated

DIRTY DEEDS

"As per their previous list in 2020, Karnataka had 25 such sites, but we were not convinced by the number. We have written to CPCB to get the majority of the sites delisted
— Lingaraj, KSPCB

Biggest culprit: Wrong disposal of industrial hazardous waste

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Five years on, the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) continues to struggle with finding a solution to remediate contaminated sites in Bengaluru and across Karnataka.

According to a recent report by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the state remains home to 22 contaminated sites, comprising 12 probable contaminated sites and 10 confirmed contaminated sites.

However, the state pollution control board has done little to either get these sites remediated or delisted.

"We have not received the list of the 22 sites from CPCB. As per their previous list in 2020, Karnataka had 25 such sites, but we were not convinced by the number. We have written to CPCB to get the majority of the sites delisted. Once we receive the list of the 22 sites as per the recent notice, we will sketch out a resolution," said Lingaraj, member-secretary, KSPCB.

CPCB first came up with a list of 280 such sites across the country in December 2020, out of which 25 were found in Karnataka. Out of these 25 sites, five 'contaminated' and eight 'probable contaminated' sites were located in Bengaluru. The sites include production areas, landfills, dumps, waste storage and treatment sites, mine tailings sites, spill sites, chemical waste handlers, and storage sites.

Following CPCB's list, KSPCB, in January 2024, decided to act upon six contaminated and 19 probable contaminated sites in the state, five contaminated and seven 'probable contaminated' sites in Bengaluru, and deduced that only one out of five sites listed in the city is contaminated. KSPCB had also informed that the private agency that owns the only contaminated land has already taken remedial measures. KSPCB also said that it is working

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10 >>

DAMMED IF YOU DON'T

Half of state's reservoirs ageing, many at end of lifespan — experts call for repairs, sediment removal

Sridhar.Vivan@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

A recent review of Karnataka's dam infrastructure reveals that nearly half of the reservoirs are in a deteriorating condition, with many having outlived their designed lifespan. This poses a significant challenge to the state government, especially now as heavy rain has brought most dams to their full capacity ahead of time.

According to official records from the Water Resources, Minor Irrigation, Urban Development, and Energy Departments, there are 231 reservoirs in Karnataka. Of these, 117 are more than 50 years old and urgently require desilting, replacement of rusted gates, and repairs to prevent leakages and structural failures.

While there are no fixed national guidelines determining the exact lifespan of a dam, experts generally consider 50 years as the benchmark for initiating repairs. Notable dams like Tungabhadra, Bhadra, and Kabini fall under Category

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10 >>

INSIDE>>
PG 5 KRS fills up

THINGS TO DO

01 Healing heritage

This Doctors' Day explore India's healing heritage—from ancient texts to Bengaluru's medical legends—through art, rare visuals, and immersive storytelling. **Where: Indian institute of world culture; When: July 1–4, 10 am to 7 pm**

02 Sonic Sunday

Spend your Sunday soaking in music, art, and community at Koramangala Social. With a genre-spanning set by New York selector Ge-Ology and a curated local lineup, this isn't just a gig—it's a full-day creative experience. **Where: Koramangala Social; When: June 29, 5 pm onwards**

03 Pride party

SOCIAL's queer fest comes to Indiranagar with drag, music, art, and community joy. Expect performances, pop-ups, mixers, and a M·A·C makeup masterclass at this all-day Pride celebration. **Where: Indiranagar SOCIAL; When: June 29, 2 pm onwards**

04 Book talk

Experience a soulful morning of stories and reflections with debut author, filmmaker, and illustrator Indrajeet More. explore his raw and heartfelt travel memoir tracing a young backpacker's journey across thirteen Indian cities. **Where: goSTOPS When: June 29, 11 am onwards**

05 Art play

A fun and creative workshop for kids (ages 6–14) led by artist Nandita N K. Little ones will transform pebbles into colourful art to take home! **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: June 29, 11 am**

BMTC fines over 6,000 passengers

The BMTC has stepped up inspections to curb ticketless travel in and around the city. During April and May 2025, checking staff examined 38,116 bus trips and penalised 5,706 passengers for travelling without valid tickets, collecting ₹12,64,051 in fines. Additionally, 3,500 conductors were booked for dereliction of duty. The enforcement drive also addressed violations involving seats reserved for women. A total of 652 male passengers were fined ₹65,200 for occupying these designated seats, under KMV Rules 94 read with Section 177 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988. Overall, 6,358 passengers were penalised, and ₹13,29,251 was collected over two months. BMTC has appealed to commuters to buy tickets or passes to avoid fines and support better service delivery. The corporation also reminded men to respect seat reservations for women, aiming to create a safer and more inclusive commuting environment. **— BMB**

From pedals to pages

Sunil and Yuka's soulful adventure began in Bengaluru and blossomed into an immersive forest museum honouring strangers who changed their lives forever

Sridhar Vivan
sridhar.vivan
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharvMirror

What began as a 30,000 km cycling journey across 17 countries became something much bigger—a memoir, a movement, and a museum. Bengalurean techie Sunil Kaushik and his wife, Japanese artist Yuka Yokozawa, pedalled from Thailand to Portugal, sharing stories of culture and connection. Their weekly column Sushi and Sambar in Bangalore Mirror resonated deeply with readers across the city. Their travel tales— rooted in kindness, cultural exchange, and serendipitous friendships, their journey now lives on in Golden Hearts On The Road, a 2025 memoir. Co-authored by the couple, it captures 500 days of travel, revealing moments of generosity, connection, and shared humanity across continents.

Born in Bengaluru, blossomed

Sunil's roots in Bengaluru run deep. Raised amid the city's tech boom, he carried its spirit of curiosity and connection wherever he went. After meeting Yuka in Kargil, the two found not just love but a shared passion for storytelling and adventure. Their earliest stories didn't appear on international platforms, but in the pages of Bangalore Mirror, where local readers urged them to reflect, dig deeper, and keep writing. "Bangalore Mirror was our first publisher," recalls Sunil. "The people of Bengaluru gave us the confidence to share our truth—and to trust strangers along the road."

Breathed life into a forest

After returning from their global cycling journey, the couple felt a deep urge to give back—to honour the strangers who welcomed, fed, healed, and embraced them. They envisioned a living tribute: a forest where every tree would tell a story of kindness. While scouting land in Karnataka's green belts—Kodagu, Chikmagalur, and Bengaluru's outskirts—soaring costs eventually led them to look beyond state borders.

In the heart of Wayanad, Kerala, they found what they were looking for: a lush 300-tree forest with a small waterfall, a perfect setting to house memories. But the "Museum of Golden Hearts," as they called it, faced an unusual challenge—monkeys often tampered with their photo installations, tearing down physical memories.

AI, AR, and calligraphy turn forest into digital sanctuary

An immersive book experience

Undeterred, the duo turned to technology. With the help of Bengaluru-based developers, artists, and designers, they built an immersive, augmented reality experience—the Gratitude Forest: Museum of Golden Hearts. Each tree in the Wayanad forest is now marked with a handwritten Japanese kanji character by Yuka. When scanned with a mobile phone, the tree comes alive with digital pages from their memoir, floating gently like leaves on invisible strings. Visitors are invited to sit, reflect, and let the stories come to them—each one tethered to a tree, each page recounting tales from Thailand's temples to Istanbul's grand domes. Through generative AI, AR, and handwritten calligraphy, the forest becomes a digital sanctuary of compassion. "We wanted people to slow down and feel the power of kindness—one story, one tree at a time," says Sunil. "It's a quiet library under the sky."

> **"Bangalore Mirror was our first publisher, the people of Bengaluru gave us the confidence to share our truth—and to trust strangers along the road** — Sunil

Collecting kindness, one step at a time

Their project didn't end in Wayanad. Sunil and Yuka recently walked over 500 km in Taiwan during the Baishatun Mazu Pilgrimage—a sacred journey filled with astonishing acts of kindness. Locals offered food, shelter, massages, medicine, and unwavering hospitality to pilgrims, often strangers. These moments are now part of the expanding archive of the Museum of Golden Hearts. Their mission is simple yet profound: to collect and showcase acts of kindness from across the globe, not in glass boxes or formal galleries, but in natural, living spaces. Their museum grows with each journey, each interaction, and each story of compassion.

The city that started it all

Even as the museum flourishes in Wayanad, Bengaluru remains central to their vision. Sunil and Yuka are working to bring pop-up forest installations to the city's green spaces and cultural venues—from Cubbon Park to tech campuses in Whitefield. These temporary exhibits will let Bengalureans walk among trees, scan handwritten kanji characters, and revisit stories that began right here. "We want to celebrate Bengaluru's role in our journey," says Yuka. "The city didn't just raise Sunil—it gave birth to our dream. Now, we're bringing it full circle."

NCFE Indiranagar installs new student council

The National Centre for Excellence (NCFE), Indiranagar, held its Investiture Ceremony on June 28 to formally induct the newly elected Student Council for the academic year. The event, conducted in the school auditorium, was attended by students, parents, staff, and special guests.

The ceremony commenced with the traditional lighting of the lamp. Dr Vijayakumar, Chairman of the School Management Board, and Sunalini Benjamin, CEO of NCFE, graced the occasion. The Chief Guest, Group Captain Pradeep Kumar Nigam, delivered an inspiring address on leadership and responsibility.

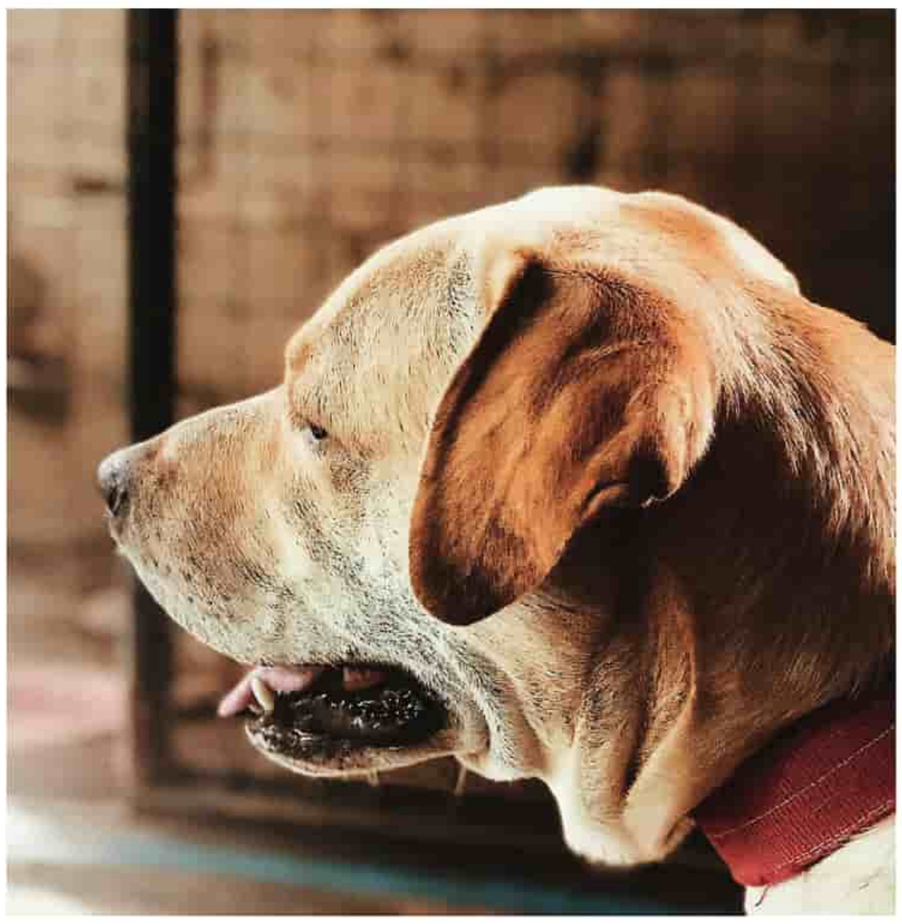
The elected Head Boy, Head Girl, House Captains, and Prefects took their oath of office and received their badges from Group Captain Nigam and Principal Taranum Iqbal. The ceremony highlighted the values of discipline, teamwork, and leadership in student life. **— BMB**

Woman kills pet dog, lives with decomposed body

Police reach woman's residence after neighbours report foul smell; inside, they find decomposed dog and two emaciated ones

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR



After police found carcass, the woman threatened to kill herself

An FIR has been registered against a woman named Triparna Paik, a resident of Mahadevpura, for allegedly killing her 1.5-year-old dog, a Labrador Retriever, and living with the decomposed body for months.

The FIR was filed in Mahadevapura Police Station on Friday, June 27, after police officials, along with members of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), discovered the carcass and two emaciated dogs from Paik's home in Doddakenakundi.

The body of the animal was found hidden under clothes. According to the post mortem report, the dog had fractured ribs and bones, slit throat and was starved.

Police have served Paik with a notice under Section 11 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act and Sections 132, 226, 325, 3(5), 271, and 352 of the Bhartiya Nyay Sanhita (BNS).

Police reached Paik's residence on Friday after receiving complaints from her neighbours about the dogs being beaten and the animals crying loudly. Neighbours also informed police officials about the foul smell from her house. However, Paik did not allow the police to enter and inspect her house. The officials at the spot took the help of Hoysala to break in, after they had reasonable doubt that one of the dogs was dead.

Post inspection, police found a highly decomposed body of one dog, and two dogs were found emaciated.

After the animal carcass was discovered, Paik threatened police officials with committing suicide. She was also joined by a male friend, who threatened the police team of harassing a woman and entering her premises forcefully. She has also been threatening her neighbours with filing a sexual harassment case for reporting animal cruelty and filing a complaint with the police.

According to Mahadevapura Police, Paik, along with her male friend, is now absconding after locking her house.

Based on the incident, the Mahadevpura Police has sent a notice and filed an FIR for animal cruelty, public nuisance, spreading contagious disease, obstructing a public servant from discharging duty, disobedience to government order, and threatening a public servant with suicide.

Notably, the police had received the first complaint against Paik on January 28 after the BBMP zonal AD, Animal Husbandry Department, highlighted the issue of animal cruelty based on a complaint received from neighbours.

Following the complaint, police conducted an audit and found that the three dogs were in very poor condition. Paik was served with a notice on January 31 with actions that must be taken to care for the pets under the PCA Act. Paik had then submitted the required reports and had promised to take care of the animals.

Cops apathetic: SPCA Member

Sadhana Hegde, an SPCA member, who has been assisting the police in the case since the beginning, says cops have so far been apathetic and have not taken the necessary precautions and action in this heinous act of crime.

> **"We believe it is a case of animal sacrifice. We have asked police to explore this angle. However, police have been carrying out investigation poorly and making fun of us**
>
> –Sadhana H, SPCA

Hegde says that enforcement of animal laws is largely based on personal opinions within the police force. Animals are protected under various laws, and as public servants, police officers are bound to operate in an unbiased manner. She alleged that Paik was allowed to stay at the crime scene and erase evidence as police took their own time to finish the forensic investigation.

"While animal lovers go well beyond their line of duty in submitting evidence of crime, timely arrests and investigations by police often do not happen. We believe it is a case of animal sacrifice. We have asked the police to explore and conduct an investigation from this angle. However, police have been carrying out the investigation poorly and making fun of us for taking the matter seriously. As of today, the family has just received a notice to submit evidence. Preventive custody was not done to ensure the accused does not escape legal proceedings," said Hegde.

According to Shreya Paropkari, an advocate who practices animal law, an accused can be arrested only if the offence is punishable by 7 years or more. If not, the police are supposed to serve a notice, and further action can/should be taken if there is non-compliance with the notice.

K'taka kids hooked to phones

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

A new study has revealed that nearly all children in Karnataka are hooked to mobile phones, with 99% of boys and 100% of girls showing signs of mobile addiction. The findings come from a joint study conducted by the Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR) and ChildFund India, which examined the impact of online exposure on children across five districts. The report, titled "Online Dangers for Children in Karnataka," highlights the growing threat of digital abuse and the urgent need for intervention.

The study has brought to light several deeply concerning trends. One of the findings is that 42% of the children surveyed have experienced some form of online sexual exploitation. In addition, 43% of children admitted to being targets of cyberbullying or online threats. The researchers attribute this rise in digital abuse to unsupervised internet access, lack of awareness among children and parents, and the absence of adequate cyber safety education in schools.

Experts warn that prolonged and unsupervised use of mobile phones not only exposes children to online predators but also affects their mental health, academic performance, and social behaviour. The commission has stressed the importance of digital literacy and is advocating for the inclusion of online safety modules in school curricula. It also plans to recommend stricter monitoring mechanisms and awareness campaigns at the community level.

Serial train thief caught

The Arsikere Railway Police have arrested a man for multiple thefts targeting passengers in AC coaches of long-distance trains. The accused, Jitendra Kumar Chawha (37), a vehicle dealer from Nainital, Uttarakhand, was tracked down through a detailed investigation and CCTV footage analysis.

The arrest follows two prominent complaints, including one from Shivananda Shivayogi Rajendra Mahaswamiji of Kodi Mata, who was travelling from Bagalkot to Arsikere in June 2018. He reported the theft of gold ornaments and cash totalling 10.62 lakh while asleep in an AC coach. In a recent case on February 8, Pandit Shankar Rao Kulkarni and his wife lost gold earrings and 25,000 in cash during their journey from Udupi to Bengaluru.

The police have recovered 281 grams of gold ornaments worth 22.75 lakh linked to multiple cases registered in Arsikere, Mangalore, and other railway stations. The recovered items include gold bars, bracelets, medallions, and earrings.

Jitendra Kumar is currently in judicial custody, and further investigation is underway to probe his involvement in other similar thefts across the state.

Human remains reignite missing cases

A human skeleton discovered in the rainwater cistern of MN Credence Flora Apartments in Lakshmipur Layout, Begur, has prompted police to reopen missing persons cases filed since 2012 in and around the jurisdiction of the Begur police station. The skeletal remains were found on June 16 and sent to the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL), which confirmed that the bones belonged to a human. Following this, the police have launched a detailed investigation.

Officials stated that the probe is in its initial phase and further steps will be taken based on the full report from the FSL. A skull, bones, and a pair of pants were recovered from the scene. The bones will now be sent for DNA testing, which could help determine the age, identity, and other details of the deceased.

The exact time of death remains uncertain. Experts have advised that more tests are required before drawing any conclusions. The foundation for the apartment complex was laid in 2012 and completed in 2016. Authorities are investigating all possibilities as part of the ongoing inquiry. **–BMB**

Centre approves action against IPS officers

The central government has approved the suspension of three senior IPS officers, B Dayananda, Vikas Kumar, and Shekhar, in connection with the stampede at Chinnaswamy Stadium on June 4, which claimed 11 lives and left several injured during the Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) IPL 2025 victory celebrations.

The suspension follows a report submitted by the Karnataka government citing dereliction of duty and lapses in crowd management. The Centre has conveyed its formal approval to the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms (DPAR), thereby reinforcing the state's disciplinary action.

According to the Chief Minister's Office (CMO), the state government has been directed to issue a charge sheet against the officers within 30 days to advance the disciplinary process. During a recent police review meeting, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah expressed deep anguish, "In my political experience since 1983, I have never seen such a lapse. If I had received accurate information in time, I could have stopped the celebrations."

He further questioned the failure of the Intelligence Department, adding, "At 5:45 pm, I was told only one person had died, but the actual toll was 11. This misinformation costs lives." While acknowledging the gravity of suspending senior officers, the CM said the decision was unavoidable due to their failure in handling the situation effectively.

Delayed footwear scheme puts students a step behind

Child rights advocates urge early fund release so 40.68 lakh government school students receive shoes and socks at the start of the academic year

| Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Child rights activists, while welcoming the state government's move to release ₹111.88 crore for providing one pair of shoes and two pairs of socks to 40.68 lakh students in government schools across the state, have urged the government to initiate the fund sanctioning process in April or May so that students can receive the footwear by the first or second week of June. The child rights activists, said all the government schools were opened on May 29 for academic year 2025-26 but the government took a month to sanction funds for disbursing shoes and socks among the students of government schools. They said the order issued on June 25 directed the authorities concerned to complete the process in 30 days.

"I visited a few government schools in Bellary district recently. Many students have complained against the delay in supplying shoes and socks. I am at loss to understand the logic behind the one-month delay in sanctioning funds. The government has asked the teachers to make preparations for reopening schools on May 29. Why the government failed to sanction funds in May and direct the School Development and Monitoring Committees to procure shoes and socks in the first or second week of June. I think the process of distributing shoes and socks will take one more month," said Dr Thippeswamy KT, a member of the Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights and a member of the State Level Selection Committee to select child welfare committees.

Government asked teachers to prepare for school reopening on May 29

Describing the delay in disbursing shoes and socks among the students of government schools as the violation of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, Niranjanaradhya VP, Chief Convener of People's Alliance for Fundamental Right to Education (PAFRE), said the government has to make block education officers (BEOs) responsible for the distribution of shoes and socks.

"The government must take steps to constitute School Development and Monitoring Committees

> **"The purchase committee should insist on proper invoices from suppliers and ensure a one-year warranty on the shoes so students can get them repaired free of cost**
> – Niranjanaradhya VP

and appoint education coordinators, Cluster Resource Persons, and Block Resource Persons to oversee the purchase of shoes and socks. The purchase committee should insist on proper invoices from suppliers and ensure a one-year warranty on the shoes so students can get them repaired free of cost," said Niranjanaradhya.

Describing the government's decision to sanction funds for purchasing shoes and socks, Nagasimha G Rao, Advocate for Child Rights, opined that the government must give importance to inclusive education. "The government must provide special shoes for children with disabilities to promote inclusivity and equality in education. This approach caters to the diverse needs of students and ensures that those with disabilities have access to the same opportunities as their peers. Inclusive education is essential for creating a supportive and equitable learning environment," he said.

CMRS to inspect yellow line this July

The much-anticipated Yellow Line of Namma Metro (R V Road to Bommasandra) is nearing launch, with the final safety inspection by the Commissioner of Metro Rail Safety (CMRS) scheduled for July 15 and 16, as per BMRCL officials. Key traction and braking system tests are complete. Although track-laying and station work were finished over a year ago, delays in coach delivery slowed progress. The corridor, built for driverless operations, had its prototype inspected by CMRS in April. Earlier, the Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO) had conducted trial runs to evaluate the train's performance, including tracks, engines, and braking systems.

By January 2025, the second prototype arrived, followed by a third train in May. All three trains underwent extensive trials. After verification of all systems by an Independent Safety Assessor (ISA), the necessary certification was obtained.

A BMRCL official stated that commercial operations on the Yellow Line will begin once the CMRS grants approval, with the final launch date pending confirmation from both the State and Central governments. Another train is expected to arrive in July to aid operations. Spanning 18.8 km with 16 stations, the line will enhance connectivity across southern Bengaluru. **— BMB**

Permit cancellation for overcharging auto drivers

In a firm directive to curb fare violations by both app-based and traditional auto-rickshaws in Bengaluru, Karnataka Transport and Muzrai Minister Ramalinga Reddy, who also serves as Ramanagara District In-Charge Minister, has instructed the Transport Department to take strict action against auto drivers and aggregators charging fares above the government-prescribed rates.

In a letter dated September 22, 2023, the minister highlighted continued complaints from commuters about app-based platforms and individual auto drivers demanding excess fares, cancelling rides when passenger s refuse to pay inflated rates, and charging exorbitant for short distances. He cited a June 18, 2025 incident where a Rapido auto charged ₹184.19 for a 4-kilometre ride — over ₹100 per kilometre, far exceeding the government-approved fare.

Despite existing efforts by the Transport Department to register cases against drivers refusing rides

or demanding excess fare, public grievances continue to rise. To this end, the minister attached mobile screenshots submitted by the public as proof of overcharging for further investigation and necessary action.

The directive urges the Transport and Road Safety Commissioner to take immediate, effective steps to identify and penalise such offenders. Measures suggested include cancelling the permits of violators and filing formal cases. The minister emphasised that such "daylight robbery" cannot be tolerated and must be addressed with zero tolerance. **— BMB**

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Problems in your area?
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Abandoned vehicle

Viveknagar

A long-abandoned car on 4th Main Road, Viveknagar, has turned into a garbage heap, reeking of filth and swarming with mosquitoes — posing a growing health hazard.

Pothole peril

Kempapura

Kempapura Main Road near Hebbal is riddled with potholes, making daily commutes a nightmare. Motorists are calling for urgent repair work before accidents increase.

Blocked walkway

Jayanagar

On 33rd Cross, between 9th and 10th Main in Jayanagar 4th Block, pavements are fully encroached by parked vehicles. With footpaths blocked, pedestrians are forced onto the road, putting their safety at daily risk.

KRS Reservoir nears capacity, first time since 1940

As of Friday, KRS stood at 121 feet, near its full level of 124.8 feet

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

In an unprecedented hydrological event, the Krishna Raja Sagara (KRS) reservoir in Mandya district has nearly reached full capacity by June end— a feat unmatched since 1940. As of Friday, the water level in KRS stood at 121 feet, just shy of its full reservoir level of 124.80 feet. The live storage was measured at 38.932 TMC (thousand million cubic feet). The inflow into the dam was recorded at a robust 73,811 cusecs, while outflow was maintained at 38,983 cusecs.

According to the data from Cauvery Neeravari Nigam, on June 21 last year, KRS had only 14.514 TMC of water with an inflow of 1,338 cusecs — barely one-third of this year's storage. The situation in 2023 was even worse, with storage dipping to 10.359 TMC and inflow trickling in at just 352 cusecs. In fact, between 2006 and 2024, the average live storage on June 21 has hovered around 13 to 15 TMC, with reservoir levels typically ranging between 70 and 90 feet. Only in rare years, such as 2011 (98.85 ft, 21.92 TMC) and 2018 (103.85 ft, 25.98 TMC), did the reservoir witness early healthy inflows, but even these figures pale in comparison to 2025's surge.

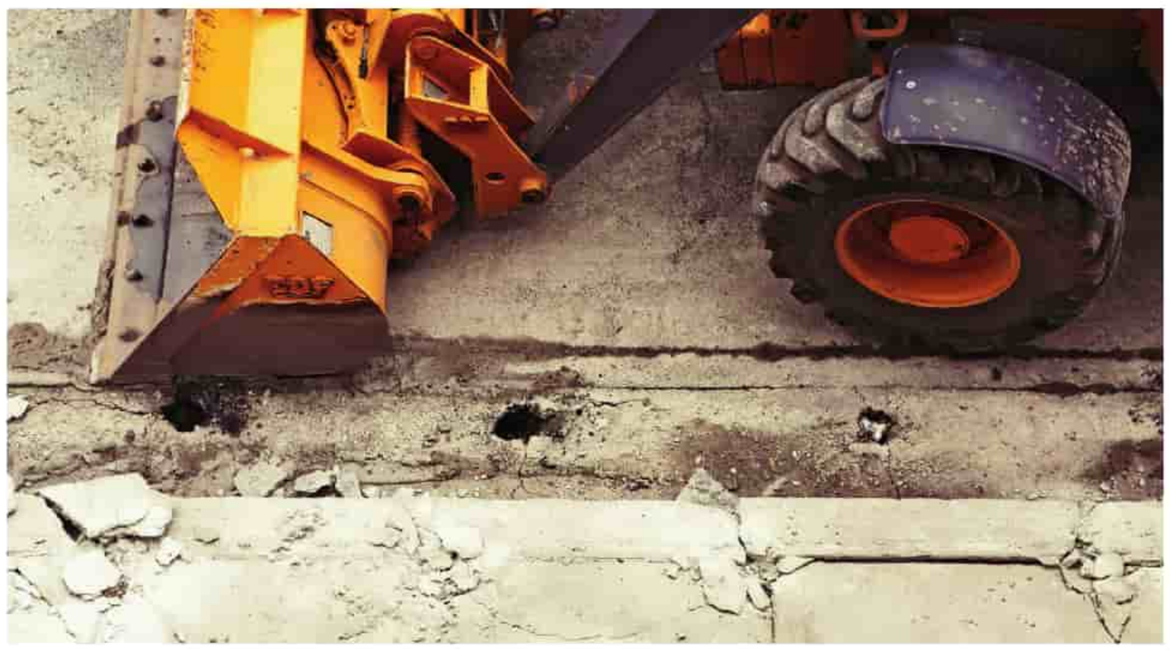
Officials attribute the surge to intense and sustained rainfall in the Cauvery catchment areas, particularly in Kodagu and Wayanad, since the first week of June. This pattern of early monsoon aggression is rare, especially given that KRS typically begins to fill only in late July or August. The reservoir, which is expected to reach over 39 TMC by mid-June, has no parallel in the recorded data available since 1940, making this a historic event not just in terms of volume but also in terms of timing.

Officials said that the implications of this hydrological phenomenon are far-reaching. With the kharif sowing season beginning across the Cauvery basin districts, the abundant early water availability offers a promising outlook for farmers, potentially reducing the demand for groundwater and easing irrigation scheduling. However, there are also concerns about the potential need for early releases from KRS if rains continue, which could raise flood risk downstream, if outflows must be scaled up suddenly.

Yet another delay for B'luru's Corridor project

Although Special Purpose Vehicle has been set up to implement project, progress remains slow; compensation for land acquisition is yet to be finalised, leaving many farmers in distress

Sridhar.Vivan@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR



Corridor aims to link Tumakuru and Hosur Roads via an eight-lane expressway

The much-anticipated Bengaluru Business Corridor (BBC) project, envisioned to transform the city's outskirts with a 73-kilometre, eight-lane corridor, has once again hit a major roadblock. Despite setting up a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) to implement the project, progress remains stagnant. Crucially, compensation for farmers whose land was acquired is yet to be finalised, leaving many in distress.

Initially proposed as the Peripheral Ring Road (PRR), the project had failed to attract any bidders during the first round of tendering. It was later rebranded as the Bengaluru Business Corridor, but even this revamped proposal failed to garner interest. The high compensation demand for farmers and investor fears over delayed returns have deterred private players from stepping forward.

In a bid to push the project forward, the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) decided to implement it using a loan from HUDCO. A 28,000 crore loan has already received in-principle approval. However, ambiguity over how much compensation should be awarded per acre of land remains unresolved.

> **Meetings have been held regarding implementation, and discussions with farmers are ongoing. The compensation amounts will be finalised shortly**
>
> –Senior official

"This project has seen multiple rounds of discussion, and we've even set up a Special Purpose Vehicle to fast-track execution. Meetings have been held regarding implementation, and discussions with farmers are ongoing. The compensation amounts will be finalised shortly," senior officials stated.

Project scope

The corridor, planned along the city's periphery, aims to connect Tumakuru Road to Hosur Road with an eight-lane expressway flanked by commercial development zones. The route will traverse key roads including Hesaraghatta Road, Doddaballapur Road, Ballari Road, Hennur Road, Old Madras Road, Hoskote Road, and Sarjapur Road, covering 77 villages in total.

Despite the grand vision, the project has been delayed for years, and the continued uncertainty over land compensation threatens to derail it further. Farmers, left in limbo, are bearing the brunt of administrative delays and lack of clarity, highlighting once again the persistent challenges in executing large-scale infrastructure projects in Bengaluru.

Seat blocking scam: ED conducts raids

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has found incriminating documents related to money laundering activities and seized Rs 1.37 crore in cash from the premises of the private engineering colleges after raids at 17 locations in Karnataka in connection with the seat blocking scam, an official said on Saturday.

"The Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Bengaluru Zonal Office, has conducted search operations at 17 locations related to the Seat Blocking Scam in private engineering colleges in Bengaluru on June 25 and June 26 under the provisions of the Prevention of Money-Laundering Act(PMLA), 2002," the ED said in a statement.

During the search operations, various incriminating documents related to money laundering activities and other digital devices have been found and seized, it stated.

The search proceedings have revealed evidence with respect to widespread seat blocking and use of cash/money in the admission process in popular professional courses in the private institutes, the ED said.

There is an extensive network of agents, educational consultancy service entities, which is used to bring students for admission from across India to these institutes, the federal agency stated. In addition to the evidence gathered, the Proceeds of Crime in the form of cash to the tune of approximately Rs 1.37 crore were also found and seized during the search proceedings, the ED said.

Lighter caps for constables

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has approved the use of lightweight caps, similar to those worn by Telangana police, for Karnataka's constables and head constables, replacing the current "glouch caps." During the annual review meeting held at the State Police Headquarters on Friday, caps used by police personnel in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Telangana were showcased. After inspecting the designs, CM Siddaramaiah selected the thinner and lighter Telangana-style cap for constables and head constables in Karnataka. ADGP (KSRP) Umesh Kumar provided a detailed briefing on the options.

Earlier, a high-level committee within the police department had recommended against replacing the "sports hat" currently worn by constables. The committee raised concerns that a uniform cap for all ranks could make it difficult to distinguish between officers and other personnel, potentially impacting efficiency. As an alternative, the committee suggested adopting a lightweight cap design. Sources said that amid growing calls for uniformity in headgear, the CM opted for the practical and lighter Telangana model, which is now set to become part of the official attire for lower-rank police staff.

Three arrested for tiger deaths

Three persons were arrested on Saturday concerning the death of five tigers in the Hoogyam Range of Male Mahadeshwara Hills Wildlife Sanctuary (MM Hills WLS) on Thursday.

The accused, Konappa bin Sonnegowda, Madaraju bin Shivanna, and Nagaraja bin Poojari Gowda, are from Koppa village and were arrested after a quick investigation conducted by a special team of officials from the Karnataka Forest Department, National Tiger Conservation Authority, a veterinarian, and an independent wildlife conservationist.

The team reached the spot on Thursday and inspected the situation, following which, a joint operation was conducted by the Forest Department and the Police Department.

When the accused were interrogated, they confessed to their involvement in the crime and were arrested. Legal action as per the rules will be taken.

At the initial stage of this examination, it became apparent that the death of the tigers may have been due to poisoning. This case was registered under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, in the limits of the Hoogyam Wildlife Zone. –BMB

Post-Chinnaswamy chaos, govt gears up for Dasara discipline

After stadium chaos, CM Siddaramaiah orders strict crowd control, cultural richness, and tech-led attractions for Dasara 2025

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In the wake of the crowd mismanagement at Bengaluru's Chinnaswamy Stadium, the Karnataka government is leaving nothing to chance as it gears up for the grand Mysuru Dasara celebrations. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, during a high-level committee meeting at Vidhana Soudha on Saturday, emphasised the need for strict crowd control and systematic arrangements to ensure public safety and uphold the event's historical significance.

Siddaramaiah made it clear that public safety would remain the top priority during the iconic Mysuru Dasara, scheduled from September 22 to October 2. This year, the festivities will extend over 11 days—one day more than usual—culminating in the grand Vijayadashami procession and the celebrated Jamboo Savari. With over 10 lakh visitors expected, including foreign tourists, the government has directed all departments to implement foolproof crowd management strategies.

Underscoring the event's cultural and religious significance, the Chief Minister cautioned against extravagance that overshadows its traditional roots. "Spending lavishly is not true grandeur ensuring the safety and convenience of people is our top priority," he said. Programmes this year will aim to reflect Karnataka's rich heritage, featuring a wide range of folk-art performances at multiple venues across the city.

To avoid overcrowding, Siddaramaiah directed that seating in front of the Mysuru Palace be reduced from last year's 54,000. Police officers have been asked to adopt a courteous and tourist-friendly approach while handling crowds. The CM also instructed officials to carry out urgent repairs on roads leading to major destinations like Chamundi Hill and KRS Dam.

Eco-friendly beautification and women's safety take centre stage in Dasara planning this year

> **Spending lavishly isn't true grandeur; ensuring public safety and convenience is our top priority**
> –Chief Minister Siddaramaiah

Mysuru's infrastructure is set for a significant upgrade. The Chief Minister stressed the need for clean and functional toilet facilities, organised parking zones, and the complete installation of stalls at the exhibition grounds before the festival's inauguration. "No stall should be left vacant," he said. Eco-friendly beautification efforts and stronger safety measures for women are also among the government's top priorities.

The city's famed illumination, which was widely appreciated last year, is expected to be even more impressive this time. The Chief Minister urged officials to ensure that the distribution of Gold Cards—providing exclusive access to select events is conducted transparently and efficiently, without any confusion.

Dasara will also serve as a platform to highlight the state government's achievements. Departments have been instructed to design thematic tableaux and exhibits showcasing key welfare programmes. As the final day of the festival coincides with Gandhi Jayanti, installations reflecting Gandhian values will be featured as part of the closing celebrations.

A large-scale drone show is also scheduled, returning this year as a major crowd-puller. The government aims to use cutting-edge technology and innovative displays to showcase Karnataka's development journey and its commitment to democratic and constitutional ideals.

Army, police sharpen anti-terror tactics

Special forces simulate high-risk room-clearing operation

A joint counter-terrorism mock drill was conducted on Thursday in Bengaluru by the Garuda Force — the elite anti-terror unit of the Karnataka State Police — and the Indian Army's 4/8 Gorkha Rifles under the Trivandrum Brigade. The operation was held at a secure, undisclosed location in the city, adhering to strict security protocols.

This was the first time the two forces collaborated under a unified operational structure as part of the Mutual Aid Scheme, led by the Garrison Commander of the Banaswadi Military Garrison.

Multiple agencies were involved, including the Karnataka State Police, City SWAT unit, Bomb Disposal Squad, Fire and Emergency Services, Traffic Police, and the District Health Department.

The drill aimed to evaluate and refine coordinated responses to urban terror threats. Key focus areas included inter-agency coordination, rapid response, threat neutralisation, and post-incident emergency care. A senior official said the exercise highlighted the preparedness of military and civil forces to work together in ensuring public safety. **–BMB**

Stampede: Symptom of deeper governance failure in Bengaluru

SANDEEP ANIRUDHAN
BY INVITATION
mybangaloremirror
@timesofindia.com
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Even as the tragic stampede that killed 11 people and injured over 60 during the RCB victory celebration at Chinnaswamy Stadium fades away from the news, it is important to remember that the tragedy was more than just a one-off failure—it's a stark reflection of the deepening governance crisis in Bengaluru. What should have been a festive event turned into a fatal stampede, exposing the rot in the city's administrative systems.

This incident is not merely a logistical oversight. It represents a fundamental collapse in upholding rule of law, enforcing accountability, and protecting citizens' lives. Despite its status as India's tech capital, Bengaluru was unable to safely manage a public event—a basic task for any functioning urban government.

Violation of procedures

Every public gathering in Bengaluru requires multiple approvals. Event organisers must submit applications to the police, city administration, fire, health, and disaster management department, etc., around 12-15 authorities in total. These are reviewed over a 15-day period before an event is cleared.

Yet, for the RCB celebration, none of this protocol was followed. Simply put, the event was illegal. That such a large, unsanctioned gathering was allowed to proceed—despite clear rules—reveals how easily laws can be ignored. The inaction of the city administration and police to stop an illegal event is further proof that there is governance failure.

Political complicity

What makes matters worse is the presence of Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar at the illegal event. As Bengaluru Development Minister, he is directly responsible for overseeing city governance. He cannot evade accountability while simultaneously running the city in the absence of an elected local government. For years, BBMP elections have been deliberately delayed, and the Deputy CM has effectively become the city's unelected Mayor. Responsibility for the city's failures must lie with him too.

A city without governance

The larger issue is structural. Bengaluru has no elected city government. The continuous postponement of BBMP elections denies citizens their constitutional right to local self-governance under the 74th Amendment. The result is centralised, opaque, and often arbitrary governance from the state capital.

Had a Mayor and Council been in place, such events would have required their approval and oversight. Today, those checks don't exist. The Deputy CM has taken charge of the city but without the accountability that comes with democratic representation.

Pattern of undermining institutions

The Karnataka government has repeatedly bypassed or weakened Bengaluru's civic institutions. The Greater Bengaluru Governance Act sidelines the City Govt and the MPC. Major infrastructure projects—elevated corridors, tunnel roads, development in eco-sensitive buffer zones—are launched without Public Consultation, Environmental Impact Assessments, or Master Plan approval. Proposed amendments to lake and rajakaluve protection laws would make the city even more vulnerable to flooding. This kind of top-down, unconstitutional governance is turning Bengaluru into a textbook example of institutional collapse.

Rule of law in decline

The deaths at Chinnaswamy Stadium are the inevitable result of systemic lawlessness. In a city where political expediency overrides basic procedures, and where even ministers participate in illegal events without consequence, the rot spreads from the top. Citizens lose faith, rules become optional, and chaos becomes routine.

This culture of impunity cannot be fixed through PR campaigns or image management. Bengaluru needs deep institutional repair and a return to constitutional norms.

What Needs to Happen

1. Hold BBMP Elections Immediately: Restore Bengaluru's elected local government without delay, irrespective of ward count.
2. Activate the Metropolitan Planning Committee: Entrust the MPC with long-term planning and Master Plan oversight.
3. Repeal the Greater Bengaluru Governance Act: Reinstate constitutional authority to the elected city council.
4. Scrap Unplanned Mega Projects: Any project lacking Master Plan inclusion, environmental clearance, or public consultation must be halted.
5. Ensure Accountability: Conduct a judicial inquiry to determine who allowed the illegal event. Ministers/Officials involved must resign or be removed.

–Sandeep Anirudhan, Convenor, Citizens' Agenda for Bengaluru

SUNDAY READ

Age of anime

For Gen Z, anime is much more than a show — it is a friend, teacher and guide

In a quiet classroom in Bengaluru or the crowded lanes of a college fest, you'll find them — teens in black cloaks, headbands, dyed hair, and sometimes even blindfolds. Listen closely, and their everyday chatter includes words like "senpai", "baka", and "kawaii". For a growing section of students in the city, anime isn't just something they watch — it's something they wear, speak, and sometimes even live. From mimicking fight scene stances to adopting character traits and fashion, anime has become more than just a pop culture obsession — it's a lifestyle.

What started as late-night cartoon-watching has transformed into a deep personal connection with fictional worlds that offer more than just action and aesthetics. Here's how anime is shaping the identities, routines, emotions, and even friendships of Gen Z in Bengaluru — and why, for many of them, it's far more than just entertainment.

"It's not just a show," says Akshay Gowda, 13. "I try to match Gojo's vibe — I got a blindfold like his. Even the jacket. My friends say I walk around like I'm in an anime fight scene!" From the calm coolness of Ayanokoji to the fiery determination of Tanjiro, Bengaluru's teens are channelling their inner anime personas into real-world actions. Slang like "baka" (idiot) or "senpai" (senior) has slipped into casual speech, often confusing uninitiated parents and teachers.

First hook

The anime journey often starts innocently — a casual click on YouTube or a friend's recommendation. Harshith Prakash, now a 25-year-old AIML engineer, discovered Naruto at 20. Shruti Tewari, 18, a communications student, was introduced to Doremon without knowing it was anime. "I had no idea what anime was when I first started Death Note," says Aayush Mukkawar, 21. "But it pulled me in — it was nothing like a cartoon. It had depth and darkness I didn't expect." For many, what begins as entertainment evolves into something emotionally and psychologically impactful.

Anime as a daily ritual

For some, anime is a weekend binge. For others, it's part of their weekly rhythm. "I don't watch a lot now due to time constraints," says Genesis Ann Varghese, 19, a communications student. "But when I do, it's immersive. I start something in January, finish it by March. Then I reset." Sruujan S, a 23-year-old operations engineer, credits Attack on Titan for changing his worldview. "It teaches values. It's not just action — it's emotional, visual, and even therapeutic."

Therapy hidden in the frame

Beyond cool characters and catchy soundtracks, anime has become a source of comfort.

"Anime helped me cope when I was down," says Sumana, another student. "Some shows handle emotion better than real-life dramas." Harshith says Demon Slayer and One Piece lifted him during tough times. "They show resilience." Aayush agrees: "Slice-of-life anime like Barakamon or March Comes in Like a Lion show you how to appreciate the small things."

Shruti recalls how anime was a family bonding ritual during COVID. "My mom and I would watch Shin-chan together — it was our happy escape."

Ask any anime fan and they'll have a character they identify with. Harshith sees himself in Naruto — "the underdog who earns respect." Aayush connects with the introspective Hachiman Hikigaya from My Teen Romantic Comedy SNAFU. Shruti relates to Yona from Yona of the Dawn, for her emotional strength and growth, and also to Nana — "even though the anime never ended, she stayed with me." For younger fans like Akshay, it's Gojo from Jujutsu Kaisen, while others idolise Tokyo Revengers' Mikey for his style and swagger.

More than escapism

What anime teaches is often what traditional systems don't. "Death Note showed me how unchecked ambition and intelligence can go wrong," says Aayush. "It made me think about ethics in a way textbooks never did." Genesis believes anime's emotional depth is unmatched. "The values are strong — friendship, loyalty, self-worth." Shruti adds, "Even something like Spirited Away talks about capitalism and greed in subtle ways. It works on multiple levels."

Almost every fan prefers watching anime in the original Japanese audio with subtitles. "The emotion is raw," says Ullas Chander, a 3rd-year engineering student. "English dubs lose that intensity." "It's about the voice acting," Aayush adds. "You feel what the characters feel. The language becomes secondary."

Despite anime still being dismissed by some as "just cartoons," Bengaluru's Gen Z is actively recommending it. "I always suggest Spirited Away to first-timers," says Shruti. "It's less of a commitment and visually rich." Genesis suggests Naruto or Your Name for emotional impact.

Aayush tailors his suggestions by genre — action, romance, slice-of-life. "Whatever the entry point, anime has something for everyone." Still, the stigma remains. "Some people just laugh it off," Harshith says. "They don't get how powerful it is."

A window into the adolescent mind

Mental health professionals say this deep engagement is not just fandom — it's a form of self-expression. "The emotional arcs in anime — grief, resilience, friendship, rejection — are things adolescents feel but often can't name," says a Bengaluru-based mental health counselor. "Watching characters navigate these can help teens process their own emotions in a safe, symbolic way."

In the lanes of Indiranagar, at café meetups in Jayanagar, or online fan forums, Bengaluru's anime lovers aren't hiding in corners anymore. They're dressing like their heroes, speaking their language, and letting their stories shape their lives. For this section of Gen Z, anime isn't a phase. It's a lens through which they view the world — and perhaps, a better one.

—Achala Nataraj

"It's not just a show for me. I try to match Gojo's vibe — I got a blindfold like his. Even the jacket. My friends say I walk around like I'm in an anime fight scene

– Akshay Gowda, 13

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KSPCB says B'luru's lone contaminated site in now clean

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

on preparing a list of the rest of the contaminated sites that require remediation work, apart from approaching CPCB to get the remaining sites delisted.

The five contaminated sites in Bengaluru as per CPCB include Goripalya near Mysore Road, Mangammanapalya near Hosur Road, Peenya Industrial area, Mavallipura dumpsite near Yelahanka, and Begur Lake, which include landfills, dumps, waste storage and treatment sites, spill sites, chemical waste handling & storage sites.

According to CPCB, most of the contaminated sites in question, whether in Karnataka or across the country, were created when industrial hazardous wastes were disposed of by occupiers in an unscientific manner or violation of the rules. Some of the sites were developed when there was no regulation on the management of hazardous wastes. In some instances, polluters, responsible for contamination, have either closed down their operations or the cost of remediation is beyond their capacity, thus the sites remain a threat to the environment.

Remediation

Experts say these sites need to be investigated, and thereafter, remediation activity should be carried out to reduce human health risks and environmental impacts.

Remediation of contaminated sites should involve cleaning of contaminated media, which may include soil, groundwater, surface water, and sediments, by adopting various in-situ or ex-situ clean-up technologies. Moreover site site-specific target levels for remediation should be decided for each site after assessment, considering various factors such as cost of remediation, type of intended future land use, feasibility of a remediation technology, etc.

"Contaminated sites, if not remediated, may likely result in contamination of soil, groundwater, and surface water that pose a risk to human health and the environment. These contaminated sites need to be investigated in detail and remediated on priority, to levels that are acceptable considering human health risks and the environment," noted CPCB's recent report.

In the report, CPCB has identified 103 confirmed 'contaminated' sites across the country. Out of these, remediation is underway for seven sites, whereas detailed project reports have been completed for 10 sites that require remediation.

For the remaining 93 'probable contaminated' sites, investigation is underway by SPCB and state pollution control boards.

50 years considered durable limit for dams

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

2 due to their size and importance, while the remaining 228 fall under Category 1. Many of these were built between 50 to 80 years ago.

Some dams, including the iconic Krishna Raja Sagar (KRS), are nearing a century in operation. Though some dams may appear structurally sound, maintenance has been inconsistent. In fact, for structures like the Tungabhadra Dam, discussions about building alternative dams have resurfaced.

Engineers from the Water Resources Department state that materials used in older dams, like the chain links of the 19th crest gate of the Tungabhadra Dam, have degraded, reducing their effectiveness. Though the maximum designed life span is assumed to be around 100 years, 50 years is considered a "durable" limit, beyond which repairs become inevitable.

Dam safety under review

To ensure dam safety, the Karnataka Dam Safety Authority has been set up. This authority includes a panel of experts that inspects dams before and after the monsoon, recommending necessary rehabilitative measures. Since 2021, the panel has held four meetings and worked with World Bank assistance to begin safety upgrades.

The first round of inspections covered 143 dams. Of these, 22 — including Almatti, Malaprabha, KRS, Hemavati, Kabini, and Harangi — were found to have structural issues. Rs 500 crore was sanctioned for urgent repairs. In the second and third rounds, 55 more dams were inspected, and recommendations were made for repairs worth Rs 1,500 crore.

Desilting is another major challenge. Nationally significant dams like KRS, Tungabhadra, Bhadra, Malaprabha, Hidkal, Hemavati, and Almatti are heavily silted. The Tungabhadra dam alone has accumulated 26.68 TMC of silt, and Malaprabha has 1.09 TMC. Many other dams have silt levels ranging between 3 to 8 TMC.

The government has admitted that desilting massive volumes from these reservoirs, especially the Tungabhadra, is nearly impossible with current resources — a reality mirrored in several other dams across the state.

Is Kabini Dam Safe?

Following reports aired on June 21 by a few television channels showing what appeared to be water leakage at the Kabini Dam in HD Kote, concerns were raised about the safety of the reservoir. The visuals, said to depict water gushing out, caused panic among the public.
However, the Cauvery Neeravari Nigam Limited has confirmed that the footage is outdated and misleading. A recent inspection by the Superintending Engineer of Varuna Circle, Mysuru, found only minor trickling—not leakage—and stated that the reservoir is structurally sound. The water level currently stands at 2,278 feet with 15.80 TMC stored. The dam was reviewed by expert panels in 2022 and 2024, and repair work has already been planned for October–November this year.

Safety and civil stability worries

The Central Water Commission's Dam Safety Committee has also emphasised the need for regular inspections and structural repairs. Failure to maintain the civil structures and gates has in the past led to instability during flood events. Experts suggest the state must secure funds from the Centre and financial institutions for regular dam upkeep.

"Dams are treated like civil constructions; their life depends on usage and maintenance. We regularly inspect them pre- and post-monsoon to carry out preventive repairs," said former CM Basavaraj Bommai. "Steel components last about 30 years. But many dams like Tungabhadra are over 70 years old. This naturally leads to problems. We've recommended rapid risk assessment and rehabilitation of other old dams as well," added Srinath Krishnamurthy, Chief Engineer, Karnataka Dam Safety Authority, and KG Mahesh, Committee Member.

Activists said that as monsoons grow stronger each year and aging infrastructure struggles to cope, Karnataka faces a race against time to protect its water lifelines — with repair costs and safety risks escalating year after year.

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personal

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I, Srinivasa Somanahalli Boraiah, R/o #54 1st Floor 2nd Cross Navodaya Nagar Layout Pipeline Road, Shakambari Nagar JP Nagar 1st Phase, B'luru-560078 have changed my name to Srinivas S B for all Purposes.

I SANKETKUMAR B H Residing at Post:Konar, Taluk:Bhatkal, District :Uttara Kannada, Pin Code: 581320, Karnataka. I have changed My Minor Son's Name From AVYUKT S H to AVYUKT SANKETKUMAR HEBBAR vide affidavit Dt: 02/06/2025 Sworn before Notary N M HEGDE, Bhatkal.

Before humans, animals risked it all in space

From fruit flies to Laika the dog, animals paved way to space, risking all before humans; their sacrifices remain silent backbone of exploration

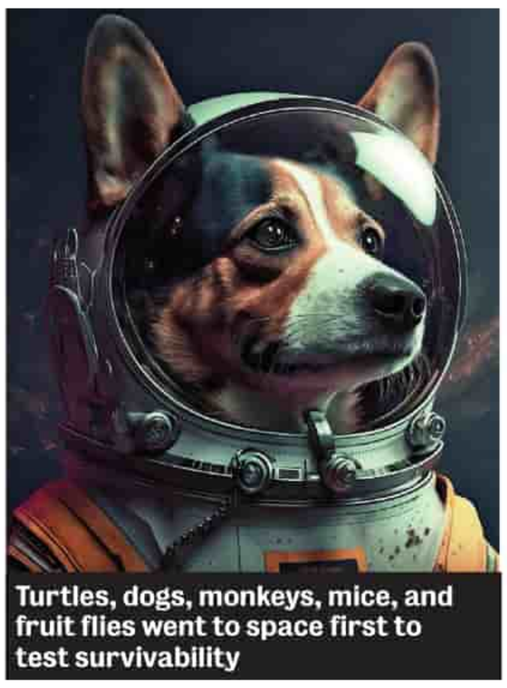
While the world recently erupted in applause after seeing astronaut Subhanku Shukla perform a perfect somersault in space, it's time we also clapped for the unsung heroes behind such human triumphs — the countless animals who silently bore the risks long before man dared to venture into the unknown. From shampoos to vaccines, and from aircraft to space shuttles, every major human advancement owes its success to the lives of voiceless creatures sacrificed in experiments.

Animals paved way to space

Even before man dared to enter space, various animals had already charted that territory. Turtles, dogs, monkeys, mice, cats, and even fruit flies were sent skyward to ensure that space travel wouldn't immediately kill a living being. Only after their survivability was assured did humans confidently step into space suits. From lunar landings to space station constructions, the silent contributions of animals are monumental and must be acknowledged.

World's first space traveller

In the 18th century, long before modern rockets were conceived, the Montgolfier brothers launched a hot-air balloon filled with heated air, astounding the French public. The news reached King Louis XVI, who suggested that if someone must be risked, it should be a prison inmate. But eventually, the honour went to a sheep, a duck, and a rooster. On September 19, 1783, the trio was placed in a basket beneath the balloon and launched into the sky. Over 130,000 people, including Queen Marie Antoinette,



Turtles, dogs, monkeys, mice, and fruit flies went to space first to test survivability

witnessed the event. The sheep safely completed the 8-minute flight, paving the way for human space travel.

Fruit flies in orbit

In 1947, to study the effect of cosmic radiation, American scientists filled a capsule with fruit flies and launched it 109 kilometres into space using a German V-2 rocket captured during WWII. Upon return, some flies survived, while others died. However, the impact of radiation exposure remained inconclusive.

Monkeys in lead

Long before humans ventured into orbit, various monkeys had already been there. The US space program sent rhesus macaques, cynomolgus monkeys, and chimpanzees into space. In 1949, a rhesus monkey named Albert II was sent 134 km above Earth but died on return due to parachute failure. Its predecessor, Albert I, had suffocated even before liftoff. The most notable monkey astronaut, however, was a chimpanzee named Ham, sent into space by NASA on January 31, 1961. Ham survived the journey and lived another 22 years.

Laika, canine cosmonaut

The Soviet Union beat America to sending a living creature into orbit by launching Laika, a stray female dog from Moscow's streets, into space aboard Sputnik 2 in 1957. Though she was provided with food and oxygen for a seven-day mission, Laika died just five hours after launch due to overheating as the cabin temperature rose uncontrollably.

Mice, tiny astronauts

Since the 1950s, mice have been used extensively to study the physiological effects of space on living beings. The first mouse astronaut reached 137 km but perished due to a parachute failure during re-entry. From 2014 onwards, mice have been frequently sent to the International Space Station for extended research missions, helping us understand muscular atrophy, bone density loss, and other microgravity-related challenges.

Other animal astronauts

Frogs in zero gravity: In 1970, NASA launched two bullfrogs into space to study the effect of weightlessness on vertebrates.

Turtles that touched moon: Turtles hold the distinction of being the only animals besides humans to orbit the Moon and return alive. In 1968, the Soviet Union sent two turtles aboard Zond 5 to circle the Moon.

'Fear AI, and you miss opportunities'

The Symbiosis Centre for Distance Learning (SCDL) celebrated its 25th anniversary by organising a special career seminar by Dr Arjun Vaidya in Bengaluru on Saturday. The event aimed to help students and working professionals understand how to grow and adapt in today's fast-changing job market.

The event was conducted under the guidance of Dr Swati Mujumdar, and Dr Arjun Vaidya addressed the audience on the topic "Reinventing Yourself for India's Ever-Changing Job Market." The seminar took place at The Pride Hotel on Richmond Road.

Dr Vaidya shared important tips on how to prepare for future job changes. He encouraged people to learn new skills, think like entrepreneurs, and build their brand. He also explained when and how to make a career change and stay successful.

Further, Dr Arjun Vaidya explained, "In the age of social media, it is important to have a digital presence and to keep it updated with relevant information. This creates a digital identity. By staying active on social media, one can open many doors to opportunities. Passion is essential in any work you do; it is this passion that makes the journey smoother."

Dr Vaidya stressed the importance of practical learning beyond the classroom and urged professionals to think like entrepreneurs. "Treat the company you work for as your own. If you want to start something, start now," he advised.

On artificial intelligence (AI), he said, "If you fear AI, you won't be able to use it. AI can help create strategies, AI can give the foundation to build a building, but the building should be built by humans. Keep yourself updated with new things. There's a wealth of learning available."

Survey to aid rollout of Transgender Policy

A survey of transgenders across Karnataka is being done to help the government implement Karnataka State Policy on Transgenders, formulated in 2017, said Mahesh Babu, Managing Director of the Karnataka State Women's Development Corporation (KSWDC) on Saturday.

According to Babu, the survey aims to gather information about the community's demographics, socio-economic conditions, and needs to help the government allocate resources for their welfare.

He was speaking at Rainbow Habba 2025, organised by Bengaluru-based LGBTQ rights group Sangama, to mark Stonewall Riots Day, observed on Saturday.

The Stonewall Riots are a series of spontaneous riots and demonstrations that took place on Saturday, 1969, at the Stonewall Inn, in the Greenwich Village neighbourhood of New York City. Stonewall riots marked a new beginning for the gay rights movement in the United States and around the world.

"Once we get the data of transgender community from across Karnataka, we will do what it takes to tackle the larger issues that the community faces, so that the development is not served in piecemeal," said Babu, while delivering his keynote address, emphasising the importance of developing public policies for the holistic development of gender and sexual minorities.

The survey was piloted in Vijayapura and Mysuru districts between March 10 and April 24, he added.

Manohar Elavarthi, founder and executive director of Sangama, said, "At a time when our communities in the United States, the birthplace of the Stonewall Riots, are losing hard-won rights, we must stay vigilant. We must continue to fight for our rights."

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORY BEHIND THE PHOTO

NATURE'S GLASSWORK

Our reader shares a beautiful parallel drawn between natural formations and the intricate glass sculptures featured in Blown Away on Netflix. This striking structure, spotted in the wild, mirrors the elegance and artistry of master glassblowers—proving that nature can rival even the finest human creations.

The picture was clicked by reader **P Suryanarayana**

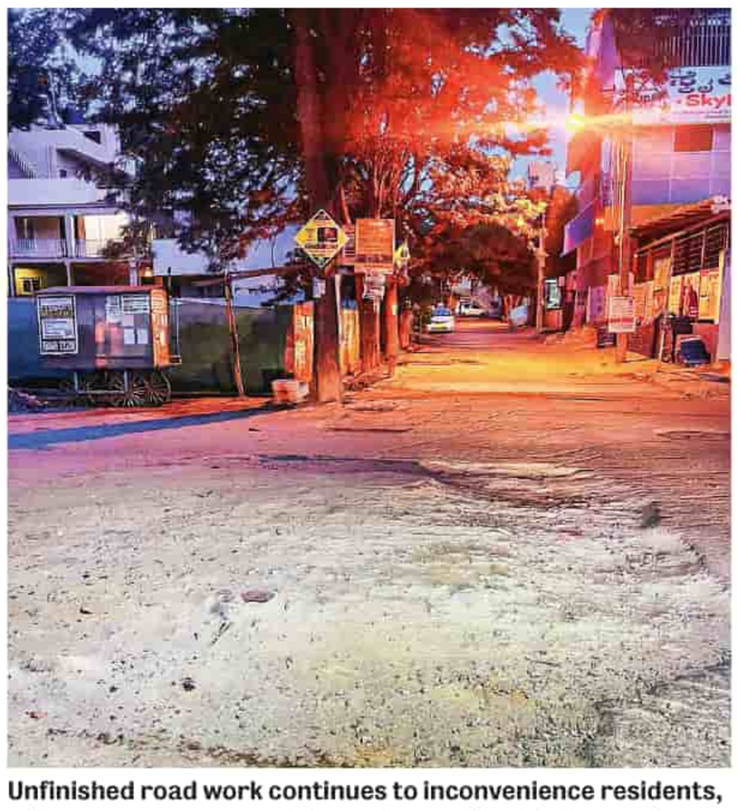
If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com**

Six months on, dug-up roads still haunt Southeast B'luru

Residents of Greenwood Layout and Kanakanagara Circle slam BBMP's inaction as unsafe roads threaten safety ahead of monsoon

Residents of Kanakanagara Circle and Greenwood Layout in the city's southeastern suburbs are fuming over the BBMP's failure to restore roads dug up nearly six months ago for the Cauvery water supply project. What was once a quiet neighbourhood has now turned into a danger zone for daily commuters, with potholes, uneven surfaces, and open gravel stretches causing frequent two-wheeler skids and vehicle damage.

Despite repeated complaints, the situation remains dire in Greenwood Layout's Phase 2 and Phase 3, where roads are in a "pathetic" state. "They dug up the road and just left it like that. Phase 1 roads are somewhat manageable, but the rest are in shambles. There is no sign of BBMP returning to fix them," said a resident near Kanakanagara Circle.



Unfinished road work continues to inconvenience residents, raising concerns over civic inaction and safety hazards.

One of the worst-affected roads is Varanasi Main Road. Craters filled with rainwater make commuting dangerous, especially during evenings and rush hours. "Several bikes have skidded, and there have been minor accidents in the past few weeks. How long do we have to live like this?" asked another local, raising concerns about the safety of children and the elderly.

Residents are also frustrated over what they see as civic apathy. "We pay property tax, income tax, road tax—and what do we get in return? Roads that resemble off-roading tracks. It's unacceptable. Why are we even paying taxes if basic infrastructure is ignored?" said a Greenwood Layout resident.

The delay in road restoration has sparked growing resentment ahead of the monsoon and festive season. Locals say their appeals have largely gone unheard and are now demanding immediate intervention. "We have waited patiently for over six months. Officials must visit our locality and see the condition for themselves. This is a basic civic issue that shouldn't take this long to resolve," said another resident.

As public anger builds, residents hope the BBMP takes swift action before conditions deteriorate further, turning daily commutes into a safety hazard. **— BMB**

DID YOU KNOW?

Ticks can be active year-round, so it's crucial to check for and remove them quickly, especially after spending time outdoors hiking, gardening, or in grassy areas. "Every season is tick season," warns Sam Telford, an infectious diseases expert at Tufts University. Tick populations vary by region, but Northeastern states like Maine, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island are reporting higher numbers of American dog ticks this year. New York is also seeing an increase in deer tick bites, according to Saravanan Thangamani of SUNY Upstate Medical University. Ticks feed slowly, latching onto skin with hooked mouthparts. Some ticks transmit diseases like Lyme disease, especially blacklegged (deer) ticks. Prompt removal—within 24 hours—can greatly reduce infection risk. To protect yourself, wear long clothing, use repellents with DEET or permethrin, and check for ticks regularly—especially behind ears, under arms, and between toes. Showering after outdoor activity helps remove unattached ticks. Pets should also be checked thoroughly, especially around ears and under collars. If bitten, remove the tick with tweezers, monitor for rashes or flu-like symptoms, and consult a doctor. Tick testing isn't recommended by the CDC. **— AP**

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Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

BUST FAKE NEWS WITH BANGALORE MIRROR

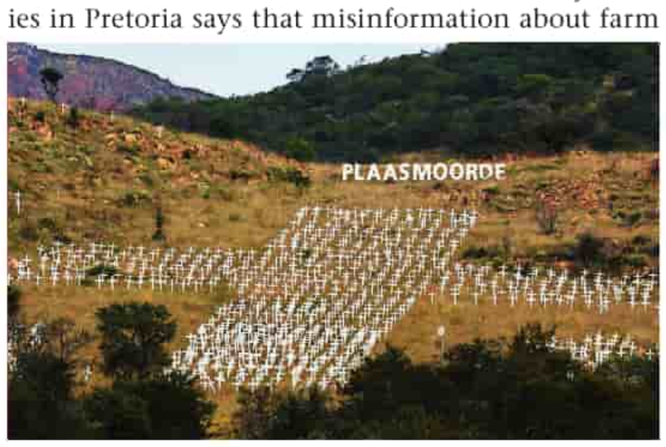
Write to us at mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com

A hillside of white crosses fuels a misleading story about South Africa's farm killings

The white crosses are staked in the ground on an otherwise barren hillside on the edge of a farm, each one standing as a reminder of a terrible story of a person being killed. But the crosses of nearly 3,000 of them do not tell the full story of South Africa's farm killings. The Witkruis Monument, which means White Cross Monument in Afrikaans, the language spoken by South Africa's white Afrikaner minority, memorialises only white people killed on farms over the past three decades. It presents a striking image, often used by some South Africans to promote a discredited narrative: that white farmers in the majority-Black country are being systematically targeted in racially motivated attacks.

That narrative has gained traction among some conservative commentators abroad — and has been amplified by South African-born Elon Musk and former U.S. President Donald Trump. Last month, Trump intensified this rhetoric, describing the violence as "genocide." The South African government and independent crime experts have dismissed these claims as false. Even the caretaker of the Witkruis Monument concedes the memorial does not reflect the full reality — notably excluding the hundreds of Black South African farmers and farmworkers who have also been killed. Research and statistics from the past 25 years indicate that farm killings — irrespective of race — make up only a small fraction of the country's overall violent crime. Most of these attacks are armed robberies. Because white individuals own 72% of South Africa's privately held farmland, according to census data, they are disproportionately affected. In contrast, Black South Africans own just 4%, with the remainder owned by people of mixed race or Indian heritage.

Gareth Newham of the Institute for Security Studies in Pretoria says that misinformation about farm



killings is often propagated by far-right groups both inside and outside South Africa. Some of these groups rejected South Africa's first democratic elections in 1994 and continue to claim white persecution.

"They cling to these beliefs to strengthen internal unity and attract support, especially from international right-wing groups," said Newham.

The Witkruis Monument, established in 2004, commemorates white victims of farm attacks dating back to 1994. About 50 crosses are added each year. Kobus de Lange, the caretaker and a local Afrikaner farmer, says his community feels abandoned by authorities. He acknowledges that violence on farms affects all races. "There are Black farmers who are also attacked," he said, adding that while the monument could include them, no such requests have been made by their families. Between April 2023 and March 2024, Afrikaner lobby group AfriForum recorded 49 farm killings and 296 robberies, just 0.2% and 0.7% of national totals.

Police recently released a racial breakdown: of six farm murders from January to March, one victim was white, the others Black. Studies in 2003 and 2015 found that robbery and revenge, not race, were the main motives behind farm attacks. "They are targeted because they're isolated and have valuables," Newham said. **— AP**

HEALTH TIP: A small handful of nuts daily can help lower total and LDL cholesterol

Argan oil contains high concentrations of vitamin E and fatty acids that help tame frizz and leave your hair with a natural shine

BangaloreMirror | 13
Sunday, June 29, 2025
mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com
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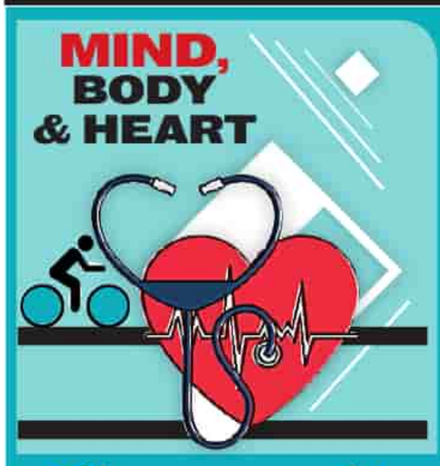

All you need to know about...

Morning cuppa

Health benefits
Love your morning cup of coffee? A new study has shown that it may not only energise you but also help slow down ageing and boost longevity.

How caffeine works
Caffeine has long been linked to potential health benefits, including reduced risk of age-related diseases.
However, the study led by researchers from Queen Mary University of London in the UK revealed how caffeine works inside human cells, and what exactly its connections are with nutrient and stress-responsive gene and protein networks.

Affects ageing
The researchers found that caffeine affects ageing by tapping into an ancient cellular energy system.
They showed that caffeine works by activating an important system called AMPK -- a cellular fuel gauge that is evolutionarily conserved in yeast and humans.
"When your cells are low on energy, AMPK kicks in to help them cope," said Dr Charalampos (Babis) Rallis, Reader in Genetics, Genomics, and Fundamental Cell Biology at Queen Mary's University of London's Centre for Molecular Cell Biology.
"And our results show that caffeine helps flip that switch," Rallis added, in the paper published in the journal Microbial Cell.

AMPK
Interestingly, AMPK is also the target of metformin -- a common diabetes drug that's being studied for its potential to extend the human lifespan together with rapamycin.
"These findings help explain why caffeine might be beneficial for health and longevity," said Dr John-Patrick Alao, the postdoctoral research scientist leading this study. "And they open up exciting possibilities for future research into how we might trigger these effects more directly -- with diet, lifestyle, or new medicines," Alao added. —IANS

SOMETHING NEW

Out-of-this world food experience

AVOCADO HUMMUS WITH ROASTED BEET AND HEIRLOOM TOMATOES

INGREDIENTS

For Avocado Hummus
- 1 to 2 garlic cloves
- 425 g of chickpeas
- 2 medium ripe avocados, roughly chopped
- 2 tbsp Greek Yogurt
- 3 tbsp tahini paste
- Salt to taste
- 1 tsp ground cumin
- 1/2 tsp cayenne pepper
- 1/2 lime, juice

Salad
- 100 g Romaine lettuce or any other lettuce
- 2 number baked small beetroot
- 2 number heirloom tomatoes
- 2 Cherry tomatoes
- 10 g Pumpkin seeds
- 2 g Pinenuts
- 10 ml Olive oil
- Salt to taste
- Crushed pepper corn to taste
- 1 sprig Thyme

METHOD
- Add your chickpeas avocados tahini and Greek yogurt to the bowl of a food processor fitted with a blade.
- Add the flavour makers: - 2 fresh garlic cloves, lime juice (juice of 1/2 lime or more to your liking), 1 teaspoon ground cumin and a pinch of cayenne and a good pinch of kosher salt to your liking.
- Run the food processor until everything is well-combined into a creamy dip. Taste and adjust seasoning to your liking.
- Before serving, add a nice drizzle of quality extra virgin olive oil
- Gently cut wedges of the steamed beetroot and tomatoes, marinate with some olive oil and freshly chopped thyme.
- Slightly toss the melon seeds and pinenuts and keep aside.
- Plating: Spread the hummus on a flat plate and drizzle some olive oil on top of it.
- Arrange gently the cut beetroots and tomatoes on top of the hummus and sprinkle with the toasted pumpkin seeds.

GREEK CHICKEN SOUVLAKI

INGREDIENTS

For Souvlaki Marination
- 5 garlic cloves, peeled
- 1 tbsp dried oregano
- 1 tsp dried rosemary
- 1 tsp sweet paprika
- Salt to taste
- Pepper to taste
- 10 ml olive oil
- Juice of 1 lemon

For Chicken
- 150 gm Skinless chicken breast cut into cubes.

Tzatziki Sauce
- 1 medium cucumber, peeled, seeded and grated. Squeeze and remove the water.
- Salt to taste
- 1 medium clove garlic, grated
- 1 cup Greek yogurt
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh dill

Sumac onion salad
- 1 Onion cut into thin slices
- 5-gram Sumac
- Iceberg lettuce
- Parsley

METHOD
- In a bowl, whisk lemon juice, olive oil, oregano, rosemary, grated garlic, salt, and black pepper and refrigerate to marinate for about 30 minutes.
- Skewer chicken pieces on wooden skewers. Heat the flat grill or pan over medium-high heat. Place chicken skewers on grill until well browned and turning evenly to cook on all sides. Finish the chicken in oven for 8 minutes at 160 °C.
- Mix all the ingredients for tzatziki sauce and season the mixture and keep aside.
- Mix the ingredients for sumac onion salad and dress the salad with lemon, olive oil and salt.
- Serve the souvlaki skewers on grilled pita bread and assemble the salad and sauces as shown in the photo.

Recipes by Chef Sukesh, Executive Chef, Gateway Bekal

mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com
facebook.com/theBangaloremirror
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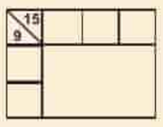
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

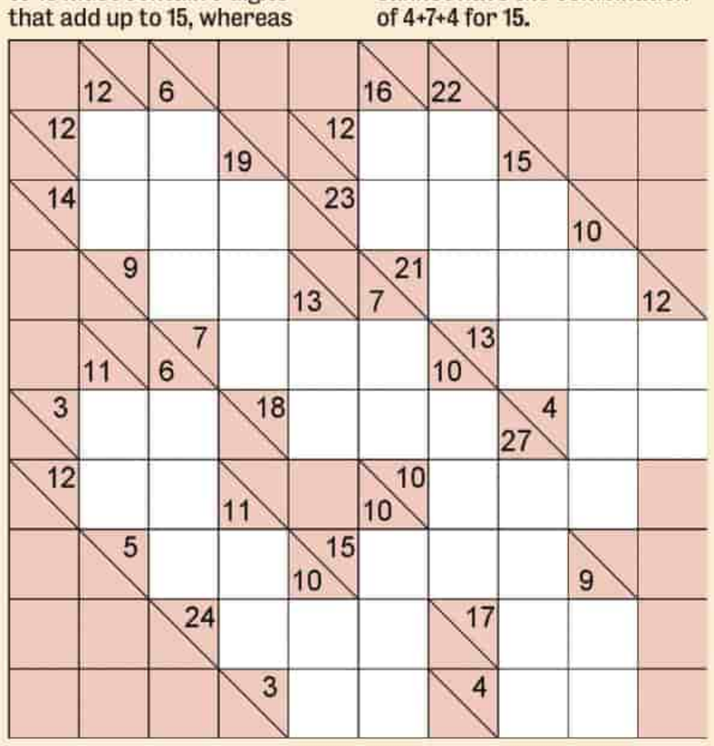
$\sqrt[3]{\{(88 \div 11) \times 8\}} = ?$

Kakuro

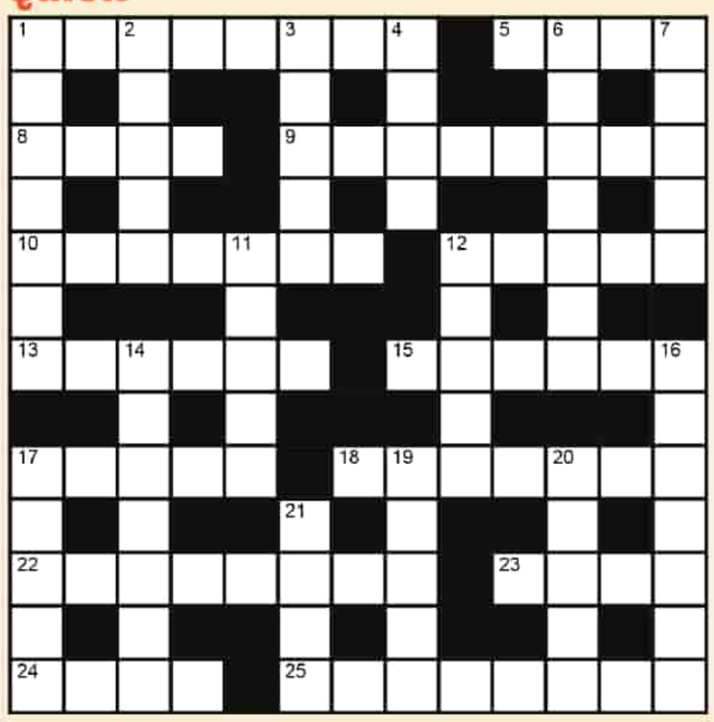
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Offends grossly (8)
5 Cry (4)
8 Many millennia (4)
9 Penned (8)
10 Pooh-poohed (7)
12 Assembly of witches (5)
13 Store grain etc. in a silo or a bin (6)
15 Thomas Hardy country? (6)
17 Every ___ has a silver lining? (5)
18 Fictional archaeologist ___ Jones (7)
22 Theme park located on the Place Grounds (3,5)
23 Himalayan myth (4)
24 Pop drink (4)
25 Lowly mongrel we see on the streets? (5,3)

DOWN

1 Supervise (7)
2 Last ___ in Paris : famous musical hit from Hollywood? (5)
3 Fierce stare (5)
4 Location (4)
6 Reaches a destination (7)
7 Heavily burdened (5)
11 Ground down (5)
12 Dogma (5)
14 Fainted (7)
16 Radiographer's work (1-6)
17 Manacles (5)
19 The lowest point (5)
20 In front (5)
21 Units of work (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: L EQUALS T

PTDI YP LST PGLGIT ZV UYIVT LSDJ YJT'V MITVTJL PYILGJT.

Linemaro

Are you a kidnapper? Because you just abducted my heart

Mindchow

The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong

Joke of the day

Newfoundland dogs are good to save children from drowning, but you must have a pond of water handy and a child, or else there will be no profit in owning a Newfoundland

Loop

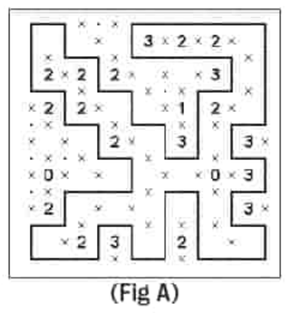
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

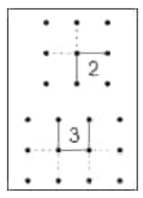
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

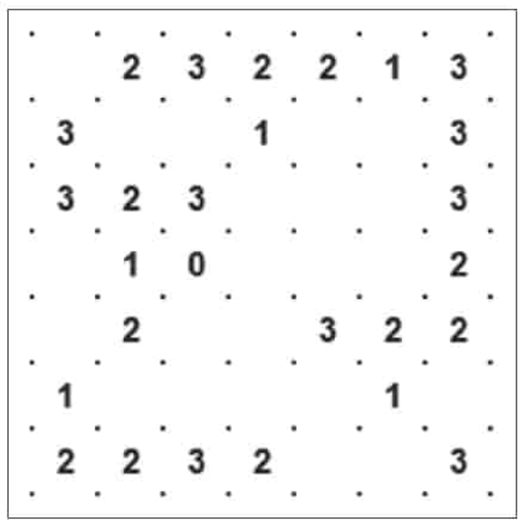
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



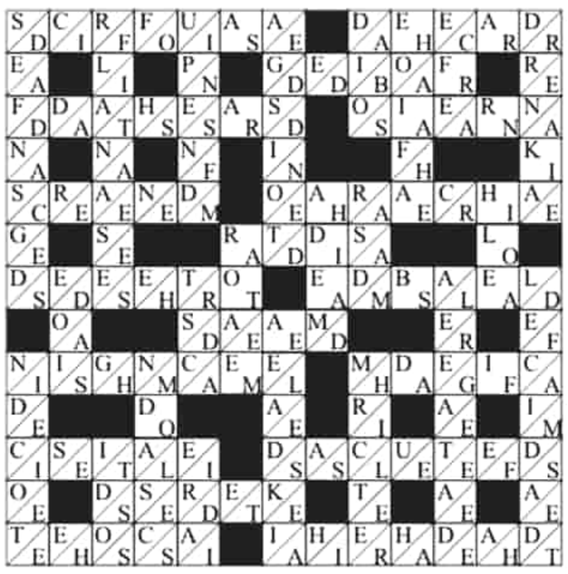
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



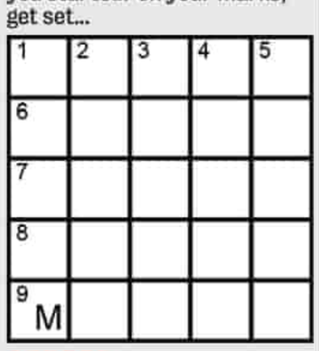
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

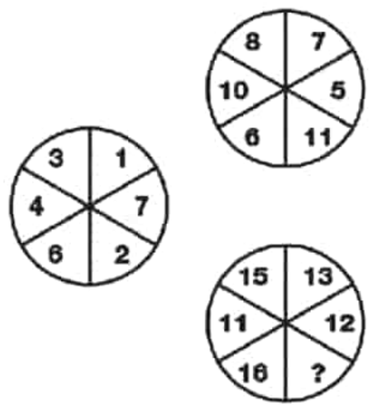
1 Alarm; 6 I mine; 7 In Jan; 8 I mod I; 9 Sun me

DOWN

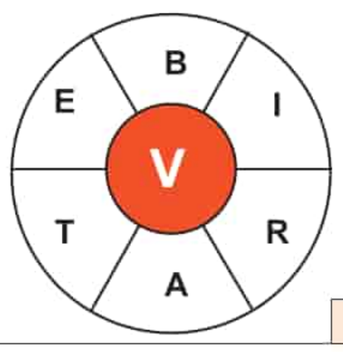
1 I'm min; 2 Media; 3 In nil; 4 Juno a; 5 Mares

Mensapuzzle

Which number completes the puzzle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; 05 Good; 06 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	8	2				9	6	
1				5				7
			2		6			
7		5				4		1
3			5		9			2
8		9				3		6
			6		4			
2				8				5
	4	7				1	8	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy

= 2

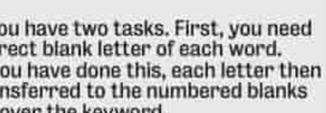
4 5 5 6

Medium

= 6

2 2 4 6

Hard



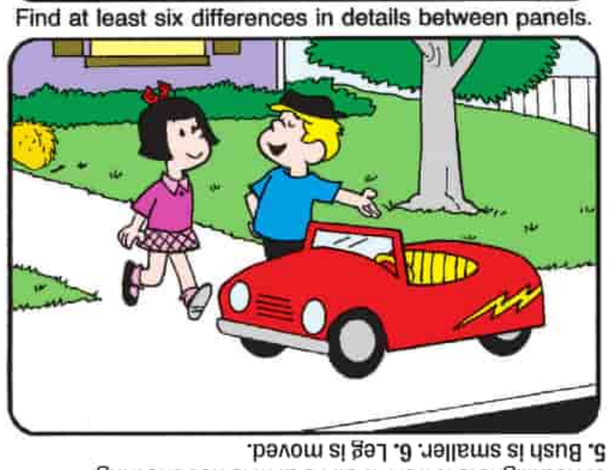
= 2

2 2 3 5

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Car is longer. 2. Arm is raised. 3. Headlight is lower. 4. Girl's arm is not showing. 5. Bush is smaller. 6. Leg is moved.

Riddler

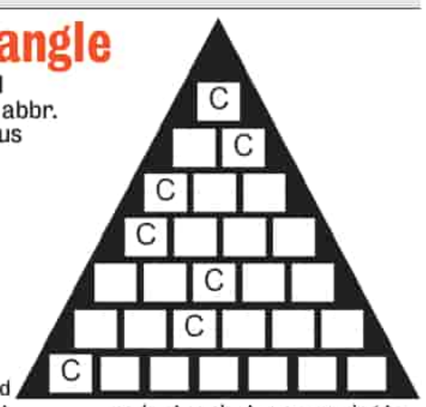
In this teaser you have two tasks. First, you need to fill in the correct blank letter of each word. Second, when you have done this, each letter then needs to be transferred to the numbered blanks in order to discover the keyword.

1. _AINT, 2. TIME _, 3. B _AST, 4. MI _ER, 5. ST _LL, 6. BRI _E, 7. PLAN _, 8. _IFTY, 9. RE _AP, 10. DIAR _

1. _ 2. _ 3. _ 4. _ 5. _ 6. _ 7. _ 8. _ 9. _ 10. _

Alpha triangle

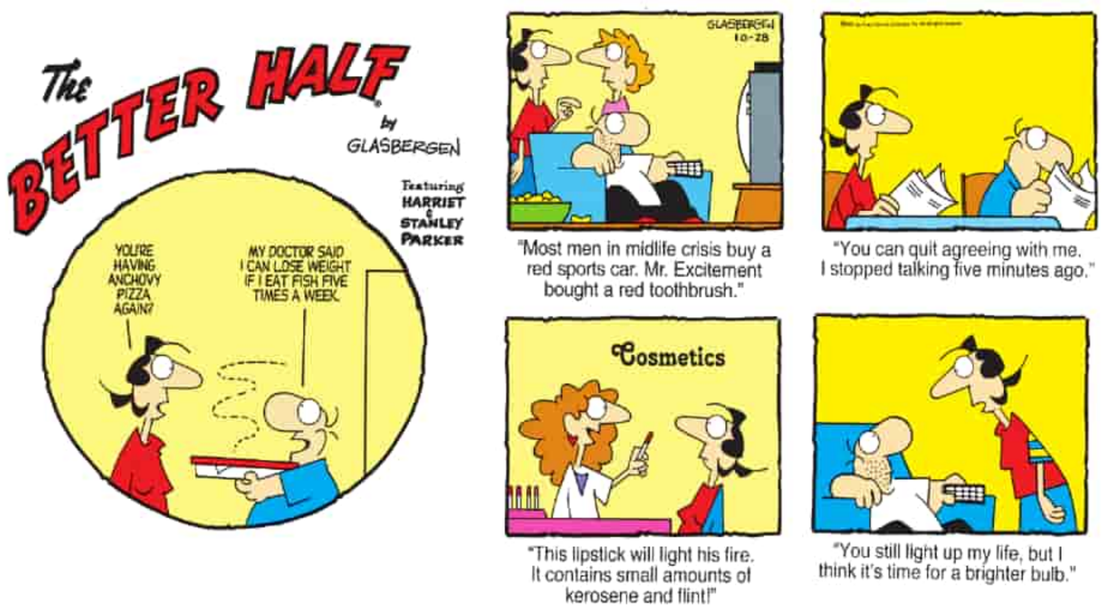
1 Atomic number VI
2 Security Council, abbr.
3 Mumbai's terminus
4 Slashes
5 Water pipes, eg
6 Old gold coins
7 A dessert



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS


The BETTER HALF
by GLASBERGEN
Featuring HARRIET & STANLEY PARKER
YOU'RE HAVING ANCHOVY PIZZA AGAIN?
MY DOCTOR SAID I CAN LOSE WEIGHT IF I EAT FISH FIVE TIMES A WEEK.
GLASBERGEN 10-28
"Most men in midlife crisis buy a red sports car. Mr. Excitement bought a red toothbrush."
"You can quit agreeing with me. I stopped talking five minutes ago."
Cosmetics
"This lipstick will light his fire. It contains small amounts of kerosene and flint!"
"You still light up my life, but I think it's time for a brighter bulb."

BABY BLUES™
BY RICK KIRKMAN & JERRY SCOTT
MOM, HAMMIE KEEPS TRYING TO READ MY JOURNAL!
I DOUBT THAT HE'D FIND IT VERY INTERESTING.
ARE YOU KIDDING??
THAT THING IS PACKED WITH SECRET DESIRES, PRIVATE THOUGHTS, PERSONAL INFORMATION, AND SCANDALOUS CONFESSIONS!
IF HE EVER FINDS IT, I'LL BE RUINED!
NOTHING YET.
ZOE
IT'S GOTTA BE HERE... TRY BEHIND HER PILLOW.
KA-BOOM!
STAIRWAY'S BLOCKED!
THE AIR DUCTS! THEY'RE OUR ONLY CHANCE!
BRA-KOW!
HURRY!

FLASH GORDON
by JIM KEEFE 7-9
FLASH AND DALE BARELY ESCAPE BEFORE MING'S UNDERGROUND CHAMBERS SELF-DESTRUCT!
KA-THOOM!
UP HERE, QUICK!
I SEE A WAY OUT!
WE'RE FREE!
BUT FOR HOW LONG?
UNTIL WE FIND A WAY TO CLEAR OURSELVES, WE'LL BE HUNTED... TRAITORS OF THE REALM.
EVERYTHING WE HAD IS GONE!
DALE...
I THOUGHT I'D LOST YOU FOREVER.
I'D ALMOST GIVEN UP, AND NOW...HERE YOU ARE.
I COULDN'T ASK FOR ANYTHING MORE.
YET AS THEY EMBRACE, A CHILL WIND RISES, FORESHADOWING THE DANGEROUS PATH THAT NOW LIES AHEAD...

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
The Moon's positive influence brings happiness and peace of mind today. Your patience will be a great asset at work, likely earning recognition, rewards, or incentives. Family health concerns may ease. Job seekers could receive offers aligned with their goals. Romantic relationships will thrive, with lovebirds enjoying quality time together.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Expect a day of mixed emotions. Avoid placing high expectations on others to prevent disappointment. Self-reflection will help you identify and release emotional baggage, boosting your confidence. This inner renewal will prepare you to handle upcoming challenges with clarity and strength.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
You may struggle with feelings of dissatisfaction. Even joyful moments might feel fleeting. A lack of patience could affect your productivity. Practice mindfulness through meditation or yoga. A visit to a spiritual or religious place could restore peace and provide clarity.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
You'll feel energetic and focused today. Your efficiency will shine as you tackle tough tasks with ease. Conflicts among siblings may be resolved, restoring peace at home. Your determination toward your goals will lead to noticeable success in the workplace.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
The Moon's blessings may bring positive news regarding inheritance or financial gains. Patience at work will improve both your productivity and workplace interactions. Though you may exert minimal effort in routine matters, your communication skills could open doors to new opportunities.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Lunar blessings bring calm and composure. Despite external pressures, you'll maintain balance in both personal and professional spheres. Everyday tasks may bring joy. New income streams may strengthen your financial position and give a sense of long-term security.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
You may feel low today due to health concerns or sleep issues. Irritability could disrupt harmony at home. Financial caution is advised—rash decisions could lead to losses. Postpone major transactions and double-check details before committing.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Energy and optimism define your day. Financial losses may start to reverse. Support from subordinates will help you make impactful business decisions. Your strong work performance is likely to be recognized with incentives or bonuses, improving your financial outlook.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
A productive day lies ahead. Favourable destiny supports the successful implementation of new ideas. Adherence to ethical values will bring inner peace and boost your moral strength. Your integrity will earn respect and recognition at work.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Life begins to stabilize as you move past recent struggles. Patience will shape a more effective work style. Romantic couples may plan meaningful outings. Students will regain focus, and singles may meet someone promising within their community.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
You may feel emotionally unsettled today. Mood swings could disrupt family harmony. Avoid arrogance at work, as it might attract hidden opposition. Steer clear of rash driving and adventure activities. Embrace calm and caution to navigate the day successfully.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Happiness and harmony take centre stage. Positive energy will uplift your home environment. Romantic moments will deepen emotional bonds. Family support will empower you in making career-related decisions. New business ventures or partnerships may emerge, bringing fresh excitement to your professional life.

KIDZONE

Surakasha, Bengaluru

Mohith, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
$= \sqrt[3]{(8 \times 8)} = \sqrt[3]{64} = 4$

RIDDLER 1. p AINT, 2. TIME r, 3. B e AST, 4. MI s ER, 5. ST I LL, 6. BRI d E, 7. PLAN e, 8. n IFTY, 9. RE c AP, 10. DIAR y
Keyword: Presidency

QUOTE UNCODE
Fear of the future is worse than one's present fortune.

FAST FIVE

M	A	L	A	R
I	M	I	N	E
N	I	N	J	A
I	D	I	O	M
M	E	N	U	S

BULL'S EYE
aver, avert, drave, rave, rivet, VIBRATE

STRIKE OUT

D	I	F	F	U	S	E		A	H	E	A	D		
E		I		P		D	E	B	A	R		R		
F	A	T	H	E	A	D		S	I	E	N	A		
A		N		N		I		F		K				
C	R	E	E	D		E	A	R	A	C	H	E		
	E		S		A	D	D	S			O			
D	E	S	E	R	T		A	M	B	L	E	D		
I	S	H	M	A	E	L		M	A	G	I	C		
D			O		A		I		A		I			
I	S	T	L	E		S	A	L	U	T	E	D		
O		D	E	R	E	K		E		E		E		
T	E	S	S	A		A	I	R	H	E	A	D		

QUICK

S	O	D	A		S	T	R	A	Y	D	O	G		
F		E			G		I		A		N			
F	U	N	W	O	R	L	D		Y	E	T	I		
C	L	O	U	D		I	N	D	I	A	N	A		
E	N	S	I	L	E		W	E	S	S	E	X		
E		I		E			R		E					
S	C	O	F	F	E	D		C	O	V	E	N		
R		G		R		E		I		E				
E	O	N	S		A	U	T	H	O	R	E	D		
V		A		L		I		R		A				
O	U	T	R	A	G	E	S		B	A	W	L		

MENSA PUZZLE
10. Starting with the left hand circle, add 4 to each number and rotate their positions clockwise to give the values in the upper right hand circle, then add 5 to each of these values and rotate their positions 1 place clockwise to give the values in the lower right hand circle.

SUDOKU

5	8	2	1	7	3	9	6	4
1	9	6	4	5	8	2	3	7
4	7	3	2	9	6	5	1	8
7	6	5	8	3	2	4	9	1
3	1	4	5	6	9	8	7	2
8	2	9	7	4	1	3	5	6
9	5	8	6	1	4	7	2	3
2	3	1	9	8	7	6	4	5
6	4	7	3	2	5	1	8	9

ALPHA TRIANGLE
C, SC, CST, Cuts, Ducts, Ducats, Custard.

GO FIGURE
Easy
5 − 4 − 5 + 6 = 2
Medium
2 × 2 + 6 − 4 = 6
Hard
5 × 2 / 2 − 3 = 2

LOOP

KAKURO

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 # Sholay is back
A restored and uncut version of 'Sholay', one of India's most celebrated films, was showcased in front of a packed audience at the prestigious Il Cinema Ritrovato Festival in Bologna, Italy

FEE BOOST?

Has Sreeleela upped her pay after hit song appearance? Read on...

Tollywood actress Sreeleela is now all set to make her much-awaited Bollywood debut opposite Kartik Aaryan in a romantic film directed by Anurag Basu. The actress recently stunned fans with her bold dance moves in Allu Arjun's 'Pushpa 2: The Rule'. Recent reports state that the actress has increased her pay following the film, sparking speculation regarding her exit from Akhil Akkineni's film 'Lenin'.

Sreeleela reportedly exited Akhil Akkineni's Telugu film 'Lenin' due to scheduling issues. Sources indicated that actress Bhagyashri Borse has been roped in to play the female lead in the project. Sreeleela has previously walked away from two other Telugu films without providing any specific reasons to the public.

Amid her decisions to opt out of Telugu films, new reports have revealed her revised pay scale. According to Siasat, Sreeleela has significantly increased her fee, allegedly quoting around Rs 7 crore for upcoming projects — almost double her earlier remuneration of Rs 3.5 to Rs 4 crore. She was reportedly paid Rs 2 crore for the special number "Kissiki" in 'Pushpa 2.'

However, no official confirmation regarding these reports has been issued by her team.

Sreeleela is currently filming Ustaad Bhagat Singh alongside Pawan Kalyan. She will reportedly begin shooting her portions for the film next month. She is also part of Parasakthi, directed by Sudha Kongara and featuring Sivakarthikeyan, Ravi Mohan, and Atharvaa in key roles. The actress has also been sharing behind-the-scenes glimpses with Bollywood actor Kartik Aaryan from their upcoming romantic film together. **—ETimes**

Vishnu Manchu shines in devotional drama

The story of Kannappa is familiar to Kannada and Telugu moviegoers with the films Bedara Kannappa and Shiva Mechchida Kannappa in Kannada and Bhakta Kannappa in Telugu.

Kannappa
3.0 RATING ★★★☆☆
- **DIRECTOR** Mukesh Kumar Singh
- **ACTORS** Vishnu Manchu, Mohan Babu, Preity Mukhundhan, Sarathkumar, Prabhas, Mohanlal,
- **CERTIFICATION** U/A
- **Duration** 183 minutes

The latest movie Kannappa, directed by Mukesh Kumar Singh, is about Thinna (Vishnu Manchu) who does not believe in the existence of God and opposes superstition and human sacrifice. Thinna is the son of Natha Nathudu (Sarathkumar) who is the head of tribal hamlet. Thinna sees Nemali (Preity Mukhundhan), the daughter of Pannaga (Madhoo), worshipping Shiva Linga. He falls in love with Nemali.

The director introduces Mahadeva Shastry (Mohan Babu), an ardent devotee of Lord Shiva, who wants to worship Vaayu Lingam and keep its existence a secret. Kala Mukha, a vicious king, sends his brother to steal the Vaayu Lingam. His lecherous brother, instead of accomplishing the task, attempts to rape Nemali and other girls. Thinna kills him. Kala Mukha decides to avenge his brother's death and kills Thinna's father Natha Nathudu. You have to see the movie to know what happens to Kala Mukha, and whether Thinna worships Lord Shiva.

The environs of New Zealand where the movie is filmed are a visual treat. Music by Stephen Devassy is good and the songs are melodious. The movie is overcrowded with many actors. As far as the performances of the actors are concerned, Akshay Kumar and Kajal Agarwal, as Lord Shiva and Parvathi, are impressive. Mohanlal makes a brief appearance. Prabhas, as Rudra, adds value to the movie. There is not much scope for Madhoo and Aishwariya Bhaskaran. Devaraj, Bramhanandam, Bramhaji, Saptagiri make brief appearances. Vishnu Manchu has excelled as an atheist and an ardent devotee. Veteran actor Mohan Babu has provided good support. The movie is worth a watch for all.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

Full of twists and turns

Director Ashok N Samrat deserves appreciation for aptly adapting a real-life identity theft incident for this movie that a lot of people who have lost their ID cards can relate to. The movie mirrors the problems of identity theft victims.

Avanirabekittu
2.5 RATING ★★½☆☆
- **DIRECTOR** Ashok N Samrat
- **ACTORS** Bharath Hassan, Sowmya John, Prashanth Siddi, Kiran Naik, Manjunath AP, MN Lakshmi Devi
- **CERTIFICATION** U/A
- **Duration** 160 minutes

Avanirabekittu begins with Dev (Bharath Hassan) desperately trying to promote a pre-owned car on social media. He also informs Kotiyamma that he has kidnapped her husband and demands that she bring Rs 1 crore in ransom. She mistakes Bhagya (Sowmya John), who is kept hostage in a car, as her husband and agrees to pay Rs 1 crore to Dev. Meanwhile, a group of people working at an automobile garage, asks Dev about the masked Bhagya in the car and why he had kept her captive. At this juncture, Dev reveals how Bhagya and he used to work for Bhagawan, who owns a shopping platform. He narrates the incidents that took place that led up to the kidnapping of Bhagya and why she is after him. You have to watch the movie to know who the villain is and who Theertha is.

Bharath Hassan has acted well. His dancing skills and dialogue delivery are superb. Sowmya John has vied with Bharath Hassan in most of the scenes. Her often repeated dialogue – avanirabekittu (meaning he should have been) and her gestures are good. One of the boys working at the automobile garage adds a touch of comedy with his dialogues on the size of his father's coconut farm.

Loki Tavasya has scored lilting music and songs are melodious. Cinematographer Devraj Poojary has done an excellent job. Choreography by Rahul Raghu for the songs Oho Hrudaya and Andakalattile is very good.

The only problem with this movie is its runtime.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

Shefali Jariwala passes away

Shefali Jariwala passed away in Mumbai on Friday at the age of 42. Late at night, Shefali was urgently taken to a Mumbai hospital by her husband, Parag Tyagi, and three others after she suffered a cardiac arrest. Despite their efforts, doctors declared she had passed away upon arrival. Parag was seen leaving the hospital, visibly devastated by the loss.

A video circulating online shared by Instant Bollywood, features a close friend of Shefali Jariwala addressing rumors about epilepsy causing her death. The friend stated, "She had no issues. Just a day before, she took a walk in society. She was fine. Shefali never had a blockage, and she passed away due to cardiac arrest."

Shefali began her career in the entertainment world at just 20 years old, known for her lively and spirited nature. After her breakthrough with 'Kaanta Laga,' Shefali Jariwala didn't pursue a major Bollywood career but remained active through various music albums and films like 'Mujhse Shaadi Karogi' and 'Hudugaru'.

She also gained popularity on television by participating in multiple reality shows, carving a niche for herself on the small screen. **—ETimes**